

**REMARKS**

The amendments and remarks herein are submitted in response to an office action dated April 5, 2005. The amendments and remarks in this response are made in reference to the claims as submitted on March 21, 2005. Claims 1 – 12 and 14 - 20 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. Amendments to claims 1, 14, and 20 herein are made to place the application in better condition for allowance.

Claims 1 – 12 and 14 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 14, and 20 are amended to include slurry gel strength as the specific property being measured. Applicants recognize that a slurry transition time is the time required for transition from a gel strength measurement of 100 lbf/100ft<sup>2</sup> to a gel strength measurement of 500 lb/100ft<sup>2</sup>. Dependent claims 2 - 12 depend upon claim 1, and dependent claims 15 – 19 depend upon claim 14.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and claims and its allowance. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephone interview, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 281-285-8606. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 04-1579 (56.0615).

Respectfully submitted,



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